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Transformative Feminist Criminology by Chesney-Lind & Morash (2013) and ¹Women from
Different Ethnic Groups and Their Experiences with Victimization and Seeking Help by Postmus
(2015)

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Transformative Feminist Criminology by Chesney-Lind & Morash (2013) and Women from Different Ethnic Groups and Their Experiences with Victimization and Seeking Help by Postmus (2015)

In the Transformative Feminist criminology article by Chesney-Lind & Morash (2013), women who engaged in crime were often overlooked in the past since crime was male-dominated. Additionally, when they considered women in crime, they were often discussed concerning the men in the crime. In feminist criminology, it focuses on gender as the key factor that makes up a crime. Women who experience any form of abuse from childhood to their adulthood sometimes find it hard to report the incident, especially those who come from different ethnic groups that value certain beliefs due to fear of being stigmatized. They would rather not disclose the event to their closest relatives immediately. It happens, and in the long run, they end up being depressed. Most of the women who get victimized are African American and Latina women, but the research study by Postmus (2015) proves otherwise. The paper will critically analyze the sentiments of the feminist approach in criminology and the disclosure of victimized women from different ethnic groups.

Transformative Feminist Criminology

In the article, Chesney-Lind & Morash (2013) focus on how women in crime were often treated. In the past, women in crime, particularly African American women, were usually treated exactly like men criminals from hard labor to even whipping; this is to show that ethnicity back then was a contributing factor to how women in crime were to be treated. The feminist criminologist recognized the treatment of women and girls in crime go through based on their ethnicity, and this became the new cornerstone (Chesney-Lind & Morash, 2013). They also recognized that girls who escaped from abusive marriages or parents were often jailed for

running away and later criminalized by the justice system. Meaning they were unlawfully arrested because they wanted to be safe from predators and violent men. They argue that gender is neither a variable nor changeable trait of a person.

Besides, feminist criminologists struggle to focus on the different arrangements of how patriarchy influences crime. Men in law enforcement departments refuse to do some tasks assigned to them and claim that they belong to the women, meaning that some jobs in law enforcement were highly valued than others. Those that were valued are predominantly assigned to men. Girls involved in crime are also in gangs, and the writers of this article question how girls can negotiate their terms in an environment that is predominantly surrounded by male gangs. They also argue that girls and women in crime are not understood because they are often mimicking what the men in crime do from the robbery with violence to forming and joining gangs. The theories of criminology believe that women and girls who immerse themselves in such crimes do that so that they can claim to be equal to their male counterparts. Chesney-Lind & Morash (2013) conclude that the feminists theories help in building a less violent society whose crime system control how the past regimes treated women in crime. They hope that the feminist perspective should be considered in the future because feminism goes beyond disseminating and collecting information in seeking justice and fairness when it comes to women in crime.

⁴ **Women from Different Ethnic Groups and their Experiences with Victimization and Seeking Help**

In ⁷this article by Postmus (2015), the researcher discusses women's victimization solely focusing on women from different ethnic groups, namely Caucasian Women, African American, as well as Latina. The purpose of the research was to focus on the victimization of the mentioned

group of women, their disclosure, and their help-seeking experience. The researcher wanted to know among the three mentioned ethnic groups who get victimized more and whether they seek help after the incident. If they do seek help, they wanted to see whether it was a professional help or an informal type of assistance. Thus, women were sampled from these groups only those who were above 18 years and from different places like the prison, organizations that focus on domestic violence or even sexual assault from four ethnic groups in the state of Mid-western.

Three questions to research to get more information from participants helped to prove that the most victimized women were Caucasian, and they disclosed the incident to law enforcement, social workers, and other professionals. In contrast, fewer African American and Latina women revealed to the professionals. Instead, they told the event to their family members and friends. The Caucasian women even went further to describe that they go for therapy sessions such as counseling or emotional support to get by. For that reason, it proves to show that Caucasian women are more open to disclosing these types of incidents, and hence they get the help they need. African American women who have been abused instead rely on tangible supports such as housing, food banks, and welfare. In this research's point of view, as stated above, most Caucasian women have the upper hand when it comes to reporting or disclosing the incident because they can easily access the services.

As for African American women and Latinas, they do not have this advantage, especially those victims who come from poor communities. They would instead focus on getting a roof over their head before getting any help. However, a predicting service in the study shows that the higher the number of victimization, chances are the number of victims seeking professional advice will increase. Notably, the women who participated in the sample, particularly those who asked for help in organizations that focus on domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse are

likely to refer other victims to seek professional help as well. Such results show that the organizations put in place to help people who have been victimized, particularly women, are working tirelessly to help the victims become better by assisting them to get through the ordeal. The conclusion of this study states that although it is okay to disclose the ordeal to a close family member and friend. Besides, it is highly advisable to get professional help and the social workers or professionals who work in these organizations should be compassionate and understanding with the victims. They are also advised to be sensitive when dealing with victims from different cultural background and spirituality.

Both articles talk about women and how they are treated in society and the justice system. In the feminist criminology article, the authors discuss how women are treated when they commit crimes in that they are treated in the same likeness with men. The justice system has not fully incorporated the female perspective because it is assumed that they rarely commit crimes. On the other hand, women are considered to be the weakest gender, so they are often abused physically and sexually with their partners or those close to them. Additionally, criminals go further to assault women whenever they are committing a crime, such as a robbery. In contrast, the articles focus on different notions. The article on women's victimization concentrates solely on why women do not seek professional help when they have been assaulted, and it focuses on different ethnic groups. Contrarily, in the article on transformative feminism, it focuses on all women despite their ethnicity and differences. It looks at how sometimes women in workplaces are treated by being stereotyped to doing tasks that are less on the forefront. At the same time, their male colleagues are given highly respectable jobs since they are the superior species.

In conclusion, having analyzed the sentiments of the feminist approach in criminology and the disclosure of victimized women from different ethnic groups, it is evident that women

and girls go through a lot to make it through this male-dominated world. From being looked down upon at the workplace to being assaulted physically by those close to them, they somehow manage to hold their head high and keep on moving despite the challenges they face along the way.

References

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